

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A medical system comprising:
an installed medical-imaging computed tomography apparatus comprising a plurality of permanently installed installation components that permanently install said computed tomography apparatus at an installation site, including an immobilely mounted medical-imaging scanner and a control unit ~~for operating~~ that operates the installed medical-imaging computed tomography apparatus;
a remote access interface connected to the control unit configured to allow the control unit to communicate with a remote location for remote servicing of the ~~installed medical-imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus;
~~an external device said external device being~~ s power contrast agent injector, separate and removable from said permanently installed components of said ~~installed medical-imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus at said installation site and being configured for temporary connection to ~~at least one of said~~ control unit for temporary permanently installed components for operation in combination with said installed computed tomography medical-imaging apparatus, said power contrast agent injector ~~external device~~ comprising an ~~external device~~ injector interface; and
~~said installed medical-imaging apparatus having a remote access interface connected to said control unit, and connectible to said external device interface only when said external device is connected to at least one of~~

~~said permanently installed components, to allow communication between said control unit and said external device; and~~

said control unit being configured to place said ~~external device~~ power contrast agent injector in communication with said remote access interface, via said ~~external device injector~~ interface, to allow remote servicing of said ~~external device power contrast agent injector~~ from said remote location through said ~~installed medical imaging control unit of said computed tomography~~ apparatus via said remote access interface and said ~~external device injector~~ interface, only while said power contrast agent injector is connected to said control unit.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently amended) A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit comprises security protection ~~for isolating that isolates~~ said ~~external device at least~~ power contrast agent injector from permanently installed components of said installed ~~medical imaging computed tomography~~ apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the ~~external device power contrast agent injector~~.

4. (Previously presented) A medical system as claimed in claim 3 wherein said security protection comprises security hardware.

5. (Previously presented) A medical system as claimed in claim 3 wherein said security protection comprises security software.

6. (Currently amended) A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said remote access interface is built into said installed ~~medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus as an original component thereof of said installation site.

7. (Currently amended) A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said remote access interface is configured for retrofitting into said installed ~~medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus.

8. (Currently amended) A method for remotely servicing an external device used in combination with an installed ~~medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus that comprises a plurality of ~~permanently installed~~ components that permanently install said computed tomography apparatus at an installation site, an immobilely mounted medical imaging scanner and a control unit that operates the ~~installed medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus, ~~said external device being separate from said permanently installed components,~~ comprising the steps of:

providing said ~~installed medical imaging~~ control unit of said computed tomography apparatus with remote access equipment allowing remote servicing of said installed medical imaging apparatus;

removably connecting said external device a power contrast agent injector to at least one of said control unit of said computed tomography apparatus at said installation site ~~permanently installed components to thereby also connect said external device~~ power contrast agent injector to said remote access equipment in said control unit ~~installed medical imaging apparatus; and~~

remotely servicing said ~~external device~~ power contrast agent injector through said control unit and said remote access equipment of the installed ~~medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus, only while said power contrast agent injector is connected to said control unit.

9. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of providing said control unit of said installed ~~medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus with remote access equipment comprises building said remote access equipment into said control unit ~~installed medical imaging apparatus~~ at a time of installation of said computed tomography apparatus at said installation site ~~installed medical device~~.

10. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of providing said control unit of said installed ~~medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus with remote access equipment comprises retrofitting said ~~installed medical imaging apparatus~~ control unit with said remote access equipment after installation of said ~~installed medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus.

11. (Currently amended) A method for servicing a power contrast agent injector ~~an external device~~ used in combination with an installed ~~medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus that comprises a plurality of ~~permanently installed components~~ that permanently install said computed tomography apparatus at an installation site, ~~an immobilely mounted medical imaging scanner~~ and a control unit that operates the installed ~~medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus, ~~said external device being separate from said permanently installed components,~~ comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication link between said control unit of said installed medical imaging computed tomography apparatus at said installation site and a service center remote from said installation site installed ~~medical imaging apparatus;~~

via said communication link, remotely servicing said installed ~~medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus from said service center;

removably connecting said ~~external device~~ power contrast agent injector to at least one of said control unit of said permanently installed computed tomography apparatus components to and thereby route routing said communication link through said ~~installed medical imaging apparatus control unit~~ to said power contrast agent injector external device via said at least one of said permanently installed components; and

remotely servicing said ~~external device~~ power contrast agent injector from said service center through said communication link routed through said ~~installed medical imaging apparatus control unit~~, only while said power contrast agent injector is connected to said control unit.

12. (Currently amended) A method for charging for servicing of an ~~external device~~ a power contrast agent injector used in combination with an installed ~~medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus that comprises a plurality of ~~permanently installed components that permanently install said computed tomography apparatus at an installation site, an immobilely mounted medical imaging scanner and a control unit that operates the installed medical imaging computed tomography apparatus, said external device being separate from said permanently installed components,~~ comprising the steps of:

installing said ~~installed medical imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus,
manufactured by a first manufacturer, at said installation site;

providing said control unit of said ~~installed medical imaging~~ computed
tomography apparatus with remote access equipment allowing said
~~installed medical imaging apparatus~~ control unit to communicate with a
service center located remote from said ~~installed medical imaging~~
~~apparatus~~ installation site for remote servicing of said installed medical
imaging computed tomography apparatus;

removably connecting said ~~external device~~ power contrast agent injector,
manufactured by a second manufacturer, to ~~at least one of~~ said control
unit and ~~permanently installed components~~ to thereby establish
establishing communication, through said remote access equipment of
said control unit ~~installed medical imaging apparatus~~, between said
~~external device~~ power contrast agent injector and said remote center,
via ~~said at least one of said permanently installed components~~, and
thereby remotely servicing said ~~external device~~ power contrast agent
injector through said control unit, only while said power contrast agent
injector is connected to said control unit ~~medical imaging apparatus~~;

and

imposing a monetary charge from said first manufacturer to said second
manufacturer dependent on said remote servicing of said ~~external~~
~~device~~ power contrast agent injector.

13. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 comprising
isolating said ~~external device~~ power contrast agent injector at least from said

~~permanently installed~~ components of said installed ~~medical-imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the ~~external device~~ power contrast agent injector.

14. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 11 comprising isolating said ~~external-device~~ power contrast agent injector at least from said ~~permanently installed~~ components of said installed ~~medical-imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the ~~external device~~ power contrast agent injector.

15. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 12 comprising isolating said ~~external-device~~ power contrast agent injector at least from said ~~permanently installed~~ components of said installed ~~medical-imaging~~ computed tomography apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the ~~external device~~ power contrast agent injector.